

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 12, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

This health care bill will be the most significant piece of legislation that Congress considers this year because it would undoubtedly affect every American. Therefore, it is vitally important that we do not make decisions without a complete and thorough analysis of the bill.

One of the most important issues facing us as we review this legislation is its effect on overall health care spending. The President has repeatedly stated that he believes health reform should control health care costs. Achieving that objective, as you know, means more than simply employing draconian cuts in Medicare spending and creating numerous new taxes to minimize the effect of creating a vast new health care entitlement on the federal deficit. Bending the cost curve means curbing the rate of all health spending.

Unfortunately, the Congressional Budget Office has been unable to produce an estimate of the effect of the bills before us on overall medical spending though we note that the CMS Actuary has provided such an assessment of an earlier version of the House health reform bill (HR 3200). Such an analysis would be invaluable to the Senate as we consider this important legislation.

Therefore, we request that you submit the legislation to the Office of the Actuary at CMS for analysis and make the findings public before you bring the bill to the Senate floor for consideration. We agree with President Obama that health care legislation must "bend the cost curve so that we're not seeing huge health-care inflation over the long term." Therefore, we would specifically like the Office of the Actuary at CMS to determine if this legislation will bring down health care expenditures over the long term.

We look forward to your response and the assurance that this secondary analysis will be completed in order to provide us and the American people with the information necessary to make a well-informed vote.

Sincerely,

Phil Johnson

Sam Brownback

Pat Roberts

Chris J. Smith

Tom Cohn

Greg Pence

Jeff Bond

Rep. Justin

John Barrasso

Nick D. Eji

Jim Bunning

Mike Cryer

Shirley G. Hatch

Lamar Alexander

Susan Collins

John Th...

Georgi L. Me...

Jim DeMint

Mike McConnell

George V. Voinovich

John Cornyn

Jan E. Riehl

Kay Bailey Hutchison

J. Th...

Paul Cook
